

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Official Action dated 09 March 2005 has been carefully considered, along with cited references, applicable sections of the Patent Act, Patent Rules, the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure and relevant decisional law.

Claims 1, 2 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson et al. (US Patent No. 4,360,860).

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. (US Patent No. 4,360,860) in view of Bolger (US Patent No. 4,907,474) and Yamashita (Japanese Patent No. JP 2001-343047).

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. (US Patent No. 4,360,860) in view of Krieg (US Patent No. 4,605,994).

Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is different from that of the cited arts as can be seen from their structures. Applicant's invention as specified in the amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over these references when taken either singularly or in combination for the following reasons:

The Examiner cites Johnson et al., for claims 1, 2 and 5-8, as an example of a flashlight comprising: a housing 32, a light device 38, a circuit board including batteries 31, at least one rechargeable battery 31, an electric generating device 30, an actuating device 46', a handle pivotally attached to the follower 46, a gearing device 48, the electric generating device 30 including a spindle 47 having a pinion 48, a first gear, a second gear attached to the follower 46, the housing 32 including a reflector 34 receiving the light device 38 in a

hole, and the housing 32 including a plate – base 91 and the walls 43 defining a cavity 91 receiving the electric generator 30.

For claims 3 and 4, the Examiner states that Johnson et al. does not teach the first gear with an attached weight.

The Examiner then further cites Bolger as an example of a mechanical torque converter 1 including a plurality of gears with driving and driven shafts. In addition, Bolger teaches at least one weight attached to at least one gear to increase a moment of inertia.

In addition, neither in combination or individually Johnson et al. and Bolger specifically teaches the gear disc including a recess receiving the weight.

The Examiner then further cites Yamashita as an example of a gear transmission system comprising a gear disc 10 including a weight 11 received in a cavity defined on the gear disc surface – Figures 1 and 4 show the weight surface being coplanar with that of the surface of the gear 10, which clearly indicated that the weight body is received in a cavity.

For claim 9, the Examiner states that Johnson et al. does not specifically teach the housing wall base including peripheral groove receiving a peripheral rib defined in the cover of the housing.

The Examiner then further cites Kreig as an example of a flash lamp 1 comprising a housing 4 having a peripheral groove defined at the base of the walls of the housing 4, and the peripheral groove receiving a peripheral rib defined in a cover 9 of the housing 4.

However, as kindly noted, Johnson et al. does not teach the first gear with an attached weight.

However, for a manually operated generator, without the

weight to increase the moment of inertia of the gear, the users have to continuously rotate the handle in order to continuously generate the electric energy. When the users stop rotating the handle, no electric energy will be generated.

Accordingly, in Johnson et al., without attaching the weight onto the first gear, the users may have to continuously rotate the handle in order to continuously generate the electric energy.

By contrast, in Applicant's invention, as amended in the amended claim 1, a weight (39) is attached to the first gear (37) of the gearing device (30), to increase a moment of inertia of the first gear (37), the first gear of the gearing device including at least one recess (38) formed therein to stably receive the weight (39).

In operation, with the weight (39), when the handle (40) is rotated for about 1 minute, an electric energy will be generated to energize the light device (28) for up to 30-40 minutes.

Furthermore, while rotating the handle (40), the housing (10) should be firmly held by the users, and the users may apply a great force against the housing (10) relatively. Accordingly, if the cover (11) and the base (12) are not solidly secured or anchored together, the cover (11) and the base (12) may have a good chance to be disengaged from each other.

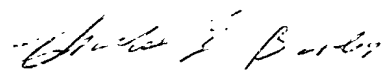
In the present invention, the housing (10) includes a base (12) having a peripheral groove (14) to receive a peripheral rib (13) of the cover (11), and to solidly anchor or secure the cover (11) and the base (12) together, and to prevent the cover (11) and the base (12) from being disengaged from each other, particularly when the users firmly hold the housing (10) and while rotating the handle (40).

The cited arts fail to teach a manually operated charging device including a weight (39) is attached to the first gear (37) of the gearing device (30), to increase a moment of inertia of the first gear (37), the first gear of the gearing device including at least one recess (38) formed therein to stably receive the weight (39); and simultaneously, the base (12) has a peripheral groove (14) to receive a peripheral rib (13) of the cover (11), and to solidly anchor or secure the cover (11) and the base (12) together. The applicant's invention is different from that of the cited arts and has improved over the cited arts.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably distinguishable over the cited arts and that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Courtesy and cooperation of Examiner SAWHNEY are appreciated.

respectfully submitted,

By: 

CHARLES E. BAXLEY

Attorney of Record

USPTO Reg. 20,149

90 John Street – 3rd Floor

New York, N.Y. 10038

TEL: (212) 791-7200

FAX: (212) 791-7276

Date: New York, N.Y.